

AMDG

3 Apple Tree Lane
Walpole, MA 02081
July 11, 2010

JUL 15 2010

Department of Public Health
Determination of Need Program
99 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02111,

Sirs:

This letter concerns the pending sale of Caritas Christi hospitals. I am particularly concerned about the ER and wards for the adult mentally ill at Norwood Caritas Hospital.

During the previous sale of this hospital a need was established to maintain 20 adult behavioral beds at this site. DPH concurred and wrote in the DON as condition of the sale to have this requirement reviewed yearly until such time as a the acquiring entity proved by its *actions* that it would continue to meet the established need.

For three years we produced independent reports to DPH based on our interactions with Caritas Norwood. When we finally declared ourselves convinced Caritas Norwood would indeed continue to fulfill the need, DPH lifted this condition.

The need is unchanged. But we no longer have the same confidence the need will continue to be met.

Let me propose to you what has worked so successfully previously. Please approve the DON only *under the condition* that any surviving entity of the sale:

1. maintain a closed ward of at least 20 psychiatric beds at the Norwood location
2. maintain a separate area in the ER for psychiatric evaluations
3. conduct a yearly review of these requirements with participation of NAMI-SN.

NAMI-SN (National Alliance for the Mentally ILL-South Norfolk Alliance) was a participating entity in the previous DON reviews. We would again furnish DPH with independent reports at the yearly reviews.

Sincerely yours,


J. Breton
NAMI-SN